

# REPORT

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE

Week ending the 26th January 1901.

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RECEIVED

# STATE OF NEW YORK

IN SENATE

January 10, 1961

REPORT OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ON THE

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1960

ALBANY: J.B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY, 1961



## (I)—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th January has the following :—

Alleged English oppressions in South Africa.

The Boer war has cast a deep stain on the spotless English name. The nation which is famous for its kindness and liberality, manliness and sense of justice has come forward to crush its enemies in the manner of an uncivilised people. The nation which was loud in blaming the Turkish Government for the oppressions which the Turks committed on the Armenians, being unsuccessful in defeating the Boers in open fight, is to-day committing oppression on helpless Boer women and children. England must be said to have deeply tarnished her good name, if even a hundredth part of the accounts of such oppression, which are published in the English newspapers, be true. All news sent from the seat of war in South Africa are, under European rules of warfare, revised by the authorities before being sent out, and any news which is an exaggeration or a censure of the authorities is corrected by them. The stories of oppression which are reaching England even under such censorship are enough to make one's hair stand on end. One can scarcely bring oneself to believe that blinded by greed for territory, men can forget themselves so far.

The English are expelling Boer women and children from their homes, because their husbands and fathers have not yet laid down their arms and submitted to the English yoke. In many cases the expelled women are not allowed time to take with them sufficient clothing for protecting themselves against the inclemencies of the weather. Innumerable women and children are being made to leave their homes in tears and empty-handed, with the clothes on their persons for their only resource. The English troops are looting whole villages and reducing whole village to ashes, with the object of compelling the Boer heroes to lay down their arms. The English authorities are attempting to explain their conduct by saying that the Boer women are being expelled from their homes, because they secretly supply information of the movements of British troops to their brothers, husbands and fathers on the field. However that may be, one cannot believe that British troops are capable of such cruelties. But the press not only in England but in several other European countries is publishing more horrifying incidents than those referred to above, and not a word of contradiction has come from any quarter.

We can have nothing to say if, in the frenzy of war, the English people have resolved to blot out the Boer name from the world. But if that is not their purpose, let them try to establish peace in South Africa by winning the hearts of the Boers by good treatment, let them try their best to remove the stigma that has already attached to their name, and the result will certainly be good.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

2. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 15th January says that the Barisal police is taking down the names and places of residence of those persons who were elected delegates to the last National Congress. Enquiries are also being made about the local newspapers, the numbers of their subscribers, their rates of subscription and the names, castes and antecedents of their editors, proprietors and printers. We hope that all this does not mean any new law for binding the people by a fresh *nāgpāsh*.

3. Two correspondents of the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 16th January say that though the land in plot No. 11 in Lot No. 111 in the Sunderbans has not yet been fully cleared of jungle, and the plot contains as yet only a few temporary residents, the *naib* of the zamindar's cutcherry has induced the officer in charge of the Kulpi thana to appoint a *chaukidar* for the plot in connection with the ensuing census operations, and has proposed to realise his salary from the fifteen raiyats who hold land in the plot. These raiyats have not yet entered into any agreement with the zamindar, as they are still clearing jungle; and if they are harassed with taxes, they will certainly go away. There is, moreover, no need of a *chaukidar* in the plot, as it is still a howling wilderness.

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 18th, 1901.

BIKASH,  
Jan. 15th, 1901.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
Jan. 16th, 1901.



SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
26th Jan. 1901.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITISHI,  
Jan. 16th, 1901.

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 17th, 1901.

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 18th, 1901.

HITAVADI.

4. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the prevalence of theft in Bankura town and its suburbs, and of the inefficiency of the Bankura police in tracing offenders. The investigation into the theft committed in the house of Sri Narayan Babu has not yet come to an end. There was a big theft in broad daylight in the house of a prostitute almost in front of the thana. Another theft was committed in the house of Haradhan Jogi of Kuch Kuchia, and yet another in the house of Babu Prasanna Chaudhuri of Jagadala.

5. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 16th January says that the other day a daring theft was committed in the house of Babu Satyendra Narayan Bagchi of Usman-khali in Khagra in the Murshidabad district. The offenders have not been as yet traced. Many complaints are heard against the Murshidabad police. A certain seller of brass plate is said to have been harassed by the police on the alleged ground of his having purchased some stolen articles. The police officer who took up the case demanded a large bribe for hushing up the matter, but was at last satisfied with a small sum. The name of the police officer is not given, but everything will be disclosed to the District Magistrate or to the District Superintendent of Police if they want to investigate the matter.

6. Referring to the case in which one Ayub Ali of village Bangara in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment for abducting the wife of Kailash Chakravarti, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th January writes as follows:—

It has transpired from the evidence in this case, and we learn from a trustworthy source, that the residents of village Bangara live in constant dread of badmashes. No one dares to come forward as a witness against them. Some time ago Majjam Ali, brother of Ayub Ali, was sentenced to a year and-a-half's imprisonment for abducting the wife of Govinda Basak. The complainant and his witness Chaitanya Sutradhar in the above case have since been compelled by the badmashes to leave their village. The witnesses for the prosecution in Kailash Chakravarti's case are being intimidated, and one of them has been mercilessly beaten by the badmashes. We are also informed that it has become impossible for the people of the Kaivarta caste to live any longer in safety in Bangara on account of these badmashes. The latter also extort fish from the boatmen. Vigorous measures should be taken to put them down.

7. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th January says that though the attention of the authorities has been repeatedly drawn to the oppressions which are committed by Kabuli and Peshwari cloth-sellers and money-lenders in Calcutta and the mufassal, nothing has yet been done to check them. The *Bengalee* newspaper has mentioned some cases of oppression recently committed by these men at Baidyabati in the Hooghly district. Much good will be done by every District Magistrate issuing an order to the police to keep an eye on all Kabulis and Peshwaris making their appearance within its jurisdiction.

8. The same paper says that the other day Babu Govinda Chandra Basu was waiting at the Barrackpore station, on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, where Lieutenant Dashwood of the Royal Artillery was also present. Govinda Babu is one of those who gave evidence in the Calcutta High Court against the European soldiers who were tried for murdering Doctor Sures Chandra Sarkar, and the Chief Justice who tried the case attached much weight to his evidence. It is probable that Govinda Babu was, for this reason, under the displeasure of the military authorities. Mr. Dashwood asked Govinda Babu why he was staring at him. Govinda Babu was astonished at this, and told Lieutenant Dashwood that there was nothing so attractive in his appearance that one could not abstain from staring at him. This made Mr. Dashwood lose his temper, and he did not fail to roughly handle Govinda Babu. If a man of Mr. Dashwood's position and education feels no hesitation in insulting a native gentleman, to whom shall the natives look up for better treatment? Lord Curzon is determined to put down oppressions by European soldiers. It is, therefore, hoped that His Excellency will not fail to make special enquiries into this case.



9. The *Bangavasi* of the 19th January writes as follows:—

BENGALASI,  
Jan. 19th, 1901.

The true cause of the prevalence  
of crime in the country.

It is strange that crimes should be so rampant under a Government so powerful and so much feared as the English Government in India. This prevalence of crimes is variously attributed to the negligence and inefficiency of the police; to the multiplicity of the duties of the officials, which leaves them little leisure to attend properly to the maintenance of peace; to the interference by the Appellate Courts with the decisions of the Courts of first instance which decide cases with the advantage of a knowledge of local circumstances; and to the senseless clamour of the native press, which is only too eager to carp at every action of the Magistrate.

While the prevalence of crime in the country is thus variously attributed to these and other causes, no one is found to lay his finger on the real cause of the mischief, or the real nature of the disease. By attending only to the symptoms of a disease, one may mitigate it, but can never cure it. The police, it is true, is to blame in some measure, and this is the fault of the officials. The present police is a political tool, a creature of politics. Its chief function at present is to search for sedition. Its main duty now is to watch whether any community is opposed to Government, whether any sect is agitating against Government, whether any party is acquiring strength. It is to this that the police now principally attends, and it therefore often oppresses the innocent instead of punishing the wicked. Even where it does deal with crimes, the police often help to bring about a failure of justice by making the innocent appear guilty. Relying upon the got-up evidence of the police some judicial officers convict innocent people. In many cases innocent people are sent up to the Sessions and are acquitted there. Many innocent persons unjustly convicted are acquitted by an appeal to higher Courts. In the evidence collected by the police untruth is found to be mixed with truth. This creates doubt in the mind of the Judge, and he, as required by the law, gives the accused the benefit of his doubt.

Many Courts of first instance are also to blame. They are unable to sift a matter to the bottom and to decide cases with a due regard to time, place and party. They often punish the innocent and let off the guilty.

But whether a Government punishes the innocent or acquits the guilty, the sin it incurs is equally heavy. Peace naturally prevails in a country in which the people live on friendly terms with the officials and look upon the latter as their friends, and in which the police is loved instead of being feared. The authorities should see that the officials keep themselves on friendly terms with the people, and that no law-abiding person is placed under the necessity of fearing the police. The native newspapers should be regarded as sincere friends, as self-constituted ministers. Many officials still regard these papers as their enemies. This sinful belief is the cause of much harm.

"What sort of a true friend is he who does not rebuke his master, and what sort of a master is he who does not listen to good advice?" says an ancient sage, embodying in his saying a living truth. The official who will neglect or act against the advice of the native press is sure to get into trouble. The Sovereign who quarrels with his ministers suffers. But "all prosperity attends the King and his ministers who are friendly to each other." Those, therefore, who look upon the native press with an unfriendly eye do harm to Government. Those Anglo-Indian editors who are unfriendly to the native press are regarded by experienced people as enemies of Government. These people do not listen to the evil advice of the *Pioneer* and similar counsellors.

It is a matter of rejoicing that Lord Curzon is friendly to the native press and listens to its advice. He sees that that press is doing great good to the country. We have not known any Viceroy after Lord Ripon to see this. We, therefore, hope that much good will be done to India by Lord Curzon, and that many of its grievances will be removed by him. But the disease is so deep-seated that it will not be easy to cure it. India is the land of Hindus. It is essentially a Hindu country. Thanks to British rule, India enjoys many advantages and much happiness. If the English Government respects the Hindu religion as King Ram respected it, India will be as peaceful and as free from crime as were the realms which owned the sway of that great and good Hindu Sovereign.



Both the rulers and the ruled should try to lead Hindu lives in this land of Hindus. One must do at Rome as the Romans do. If one is to live in water, one must live like fish; if one is to live in the air, one must live like birds; if one is to live in heaven, one must live like the gods; and if one is to live in Hindustan, one must live like Hindus. If, under the regulations of Government, the injunctions of the Hindu religion are obeyed by everybody, those who are worthy of honour will receive due honour, and those who are bound to obey will not turn refractory, and crime will become unknown in the land.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Jan. 15th 1901

10. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 15th January says that four important documents have been stolen from the records of the case No. 3 of 1900 (*Badan Chandra Saha versus Radha Charan Saha*) on the file of the Second Subordinate Judge of Mymensingh. Documents are from time to time stolen from the records of the law courts, but not in a single instance has anybody heard of the thief being brought to justice, nor is it known whether any steps have been taken to prevent such thefts. Vigorous measures should be taken to trace the offender in the case noticed.

BIKASH,  
Jan. 15th 1901.

11. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 15th January says that currency notes of the value of Rs. 3,000 having been stolen from the Jhalakati cutcherry of the Raja Bahadur, the treasurer, *poddar*, and Babu Upendra Nath Sen, Assistant to the Manager of the Raja, were sent up by the police for trial. All of them were released on bail. But the *poddar* was rearrested and sent to *hajet* by order of Babu Kali Kumar Rai, Deputy Magistrate of Barisal. This procedure of the Deputy Magistrate astonished everybody. Can any one say why the *poddar* was rearrested after having been released on bail? The matter did not end here. The treasurer, who was principally responsible for the stolen money, made an application to the Deputy Magistrate, Babu Kali Kumar Rai, laying the charge of theft at the door of Upendra Nath Sen. Kali Kumar Babu thereupon ordered a police enquiry. The police in the meantime being unable to find sufficient proof against the accused sent up by them, submitted a report in the B Form. Mr. Harris, Manager of the Raja, being dissatisfied with the police report, asked for a judicial enquiry, and the Deputy Magistrate granted his prayer. It is said that Kali Kumar Babu, after an interview with the District Magistrate, passed orders for the hearing of the treasurer's application after the judicial enquiry granted on Mr. Harris's prayer, though he had already ordered a police enquiry on the application. Such a farce of a trial is calculated to lower the prestige of a Court of Justice.

TRIPURA  
HITAISHI,  
Jan. 15th 1901.

12. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 15th January says that criminal work is not being satisfactorily done in Comilla, owing to a paucity of executive officers in the place. There are at present three Deputy Magistrates there, one of whom has to do treasury work and the other two all the criminal and other work between themselves. The cases on their files are so numerous that in their endeavour to clear them they cannot always pay much attention to the quality of their decisions. Another Deputy Magistrate is urgently needed in the station.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Jan. 16th 1901

13. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 16th January says that an application was made to the Calcutta High Court by Babu Bhagabati Charan Rai, zamindar of Kanchantala in the Murshidabad district for transferring his case from the file of Babu Chandra Nath Ghosh, Deputy Magistrate of Jangipur, as the zamindar does not expect a fair trial at his hands. But the Hon'ble Judges being satisfied with the explanation given by the Deputy Magistrate, have rejected the application. Another affidavit has since been filed in the High Court by another person for the transfer of his case from the file of the same Deputy Magistrate. Two or three affidavits have been filed against this officer in the course of a month or two. If the allegations made in these affidavits be true, Chandra Nath Babu ought to be at once transferred from Jangipur. He has become very unpopular there. Will there



be any harm in enquiring into the correctness of the allegations made in these affidavits?

14. The *Rangpur Dikprakash* [Rangpur] of the 17th January is glad to hear from the *Bangabhumi* that Babu Purna Chandra Mitra has been appointed Magistrate and Collector of Rangpur. He will be able to do more good as a Magistrate than as a Secretary to the Board of Revenue. People will like to see him confirmed in the post.

RANGPUR  
DIKPRAKASH,  
Jan. 17th, 1901.

15. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th January says that the minor son of a respectable officer in the Dacca Collectorate was sentenced to a whipping of seven stripes by the Joint-Magistrate of Dacca for plucking a few flowers from the Dacca Cemetery. Sentencing such a boy to whipping for plucking a few flowers was extremely barbarous. The common people of this country know not that it is an offence to pluck flowers in another's garden. It was therefore highly improper to haul up a school boy before a criminal court to answer a charge of theft of flowers. The Joint-Magistrate, being a European, certainly knows that school-boys committing offences of a far more serious nature in England are not considered punishable under the law. Why are the authorities so strict with native students? Boys are naturally somewhat unruly, and their unruliness ought not to make them liable to be whipped like thieves and *badmashes*.

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 17th 1901.

16. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th January says that it is rumoured that Mr. Abdur Rahim, Barrister-at-law, will be appointed to succeed Nawab Syed Ameer Hossain in the Northern Division Magistrateship in Calcutta. Nothing can be said against Mr. Rahim's fitness for the post. He pleased everybody by his behaviour when officiating in it a short time ago. But many people would be glad to see an able and experienced Deputy Magistrate promoted to it.

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 18th, 1901.

17. The same paper says that Mr. Gabriel, Subdivisional Officer of Beguserai in the Monghyr district, has graver faults than what has been pointed out in this paper [Reports on Native Papers for 8th, 15th and 22nd December, paragraphs 18, 21 and 20 respectively].

HITAVADI

The two following cases prove Mr. Gabriel's inefficiency as a judicial officer:—

(1) A man named Chul Mul had instituted proceedings under section 145 of the Code of Criminal Procedure against one Guhi in connection with a land dispute. The case was really between two strong parties—one Babu Kamaleswari Prasad, zamindar, and the other, the Manager of the Begumserai Indigo Factory. Mr. Gabriel took five months, from 20th July to 20th December, to decide the case; and even then arrived at no definite conclusion. This is his judgment in the case:—

“The evidence taken in this case, both oral and documentary, is very voluminous. I have gone through it as carefully as possible, but I am unable to satisfy myself as to which party is in possession. I, therefore, attach the subject of this dispute until a competent civil court has decided as to which party is in possession.

E. V. GABRIEL.

*The 20th December 1900.”*

The case did not put the Manager of the factory to much expense, but necessitated a heavy expense on the other side.

(2) On the 2nd January last, Mr. Gabriel took the deposition of a man named Lalit Kumar, who had lodged a complaint against Mr. Marsham, Manager of the Begumserai Indigo Factory, to the effect that he had been unlawfully detained by Mr. Marsham and placed in the custody of four *karkuns* for refusal to give evidence in favour of the factory in a certain civil suit. Mr. Gabriel issued no summons or warrant against the accused on that day. On the 4th January, the day to which the case had been postponed, the complainant came to Court with his witnesses, but on that day, too, no orders were passed, and the case was postponed to the 7th January. The whole of



that day, again, the complainant danced attendance at the Court with his witnesses, but failed to know of any day fixed or of any orders passed. On the 12th January, he heard that Mr. Gabriel had ordered only a summons to issue against Mr. Marsham. In the meantime, Mr. Marsham caused a warrant to issue against Lalit Kumar's son, an employé in the factory, for embezzlement. Lalit Kumar's case has been dismissed, but Mr. Marsham's case against his son is under trial.

Mr. Gabriel's high-handedness as a judicial officer is best illustrated by a case in which he inflicted a fine of Rs. 25 on each of three men for putting a bamboo covering, instead of a covering made of wood, over a well.

Mr. Gabriel treats the Munsifs with great insolence, probably under the impression that they are officers subordinate to him. Lately, the first Munsif of Beguserai had occasion to address the following letter to him as the Officer in charge of the Treasury:—

"To

The Sub-Treasury Officer, Beguserai.

*Dated 9th January 1901.*

5-Misc.  
7

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to state that much inconvenience is felt by this office and the parties dealing with this Court for want of regular information as to the dates on which Treasury business is transacted. The consequence is that more than Rs. 500 generally remain as balance in the hands of the Cashier of this Court, which is against the Rules of the Hon'ble High Court, reproduced at page 139 of those Rules and Circular Orders. Chalans issued to parties have to be cancelled and money received in Court. I therefore request that you will be so good as to inform this Court of the dates on which Treasury business is transacted and to send timely information thereof to me to facilitate the business of this Court in connection with the Treasury.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

BHAGAVATI CHARAN MITRA,

*Munsif, 1st Court."*

To this Mr. Gabriel returned the following discourteous reply in memorandum form, which one can use only in addressing one's subordinates:—

"No. 495R.

From—E. V. GABRIEL, Esq., C.S., Subdivisional Officer, Beguserai,  
To—The Munsif, 1st Court, Beguserai.

His letter No. 5-Misc.  
7, dated 9th instant.

The dates can always be ascertained by enquiry at the Treasury at the beginning of each month. As a rule the Sub-Treasury is opened every Saturday during the sowing season. Any exceptions to the rule are pasted on the notice board at the Sub-Treasury.

E. V. GABRIEL.

*11th January 1900."*

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Jan. 23rd 1901.

18. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 23rd January says that it was not right on the part of the Government to appoint Babu Umesh Chandra Sen, Deputy Collector of Midnapore, as the Land Acquisition Deputy Collector for the proposed extension of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to Jheria. Many unpleasant things were said of Umesh Babu when he was acquiring land in Kharakpur for the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. Umesh Babu can appraise the value of no land without consulting the Government pleader, Babu Kartik Chandra Mitra.



## (d)—Education.

19. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 11th January says that Rai Sarat

Rai Sarat Chandra Das Bahadur and the Chittagong Normal School.

Chandra Das Bahadur, C.I.E., has lately taken some land at the foot of the hill belonging to the Chittagong Normal School to make a new road to his own hill on the west of the school hill. Lately, one

day, the Head Master of the school received information that some coolies were cutting land belonging to the school. He went to the spot and saw the Rai Bahadur standing there. He respectfully told him that he ought not to have taken the land before any communication on the subject had been received at the school from the Collector. This threw the Rai Bahadur into a rage. He insulted the Head Master and ordered him to leave the place. He is also said to have used towards the Head Master language which the writer feels ashamed to reproduce. The authorities of the Education Department should uphold their prestige.

The Rai Bahadur is taking advantage of Mr. Lea, the Collector, who is too good a man.

20. The *Bangabhumii* [Calcutta] of the 15th January has the following:—

The Lord Bishop on Bible-reading in schools and colleges.

We do not see how we can object to the Lord Bishop's proposal relating to Bible-reading in Government schools and colleges. As it is, school

and college education is spoiling Hindu boys. Without knowing anything of the Christian religion, they learn Christian vices, eat forbidden food, talk in language unbecoming in a Hindu, and above all possess no faith in God or in a future world, and no love of virtue or fear of sin. It would be better for them to remain unlettered than to receive education which produces such results. We do not believe that the mere reading of the Bible will completely reform bad boys. Hindu boys reading in missionary schools and colleges are as bad as boys reading in Government institutions.

21. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 15th January has heard that the District

Proposed abolition of the Model Schools in Barisal.

Board of Backergunge has decided to abolish the three Model Schools in Barisal, as their results have not been so satisfactory as those of the aided and

private institutions. We do not consider the Board's decision to be right, for it is highly imprudent to pull up a tree by the root, because it has not yielded good fruits. The Board should devise means for making these schools worthy of their name. Teachers on the poor salaries now paid in these schools cannot be expected to show much zeal or alacrity in their work. If the number of English teachers be increased and the graded system of pay is introduced, better work can be expected from the teachers. The charge of the school should be entrusted to an English teacher instead of to a pandit as at present. A Committee should also be appointed to exercise supervision over the working of these schools, as supervision will make the teachers do their work with more care and attention. Subscriptions should be raised from the people of the district, and more English teachers appointed on better pay than at present. The pay of the Bengali teachers may be reduced. The District Board is requested to consider these proposals.

22. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the

The new educational scheme.

16th January says that Government may, if it cares to do so, bring about a revolution in the education

of Indian boys from the very commencement of the twentieth century. If the proposals made by the Government in this connection are carried out, the educational system of the twentieth century will be a vast improvement on that of the nineteenth. In the century which has just passed away, boys were made to go through heaps of books, but no attempt was made to develop their faculties and fit them for the study of nature. It is a serious loss to the world if the genius of a Newton is pinned to a clerk's desk and the powers of a Herbert Spencer are wasted in doing *dafti's* work. Mental faculties are not developed without proper education, and the world may make unexpected progress if the various faculties of children are carefully developed from infancy. Now, millions of superior intellects remain undeveloped for want of

*SANSODHINI*,  
Jan. 11th, 1901.

*BANGABHUMI*,  
Jan. 15th, 1901.

*BIKASH*,  
Jan. 15th 1901.

*SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA*,  
Jan. 16th 1901.



education, opportunity and encouragement. So long the Government had contented itself with putting a few books in the hands of boys; now it is about to make an attempt to really educate them.

**SANJIVANI,**  
Jan. 17th, 1901.

23. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th January says that a proposal to abolish the posts of Inspecting Pandits is now under the consideration of the Government. But

The Inspecting Panditships.

these posts should not be abolished, as the inspection of pathshalas cannot be satisfactorily done by Sub-Inspectors of Schools.

**SANJIVANI.**

24. The same paper says that the new Professor of Chemistry in the Presidency College, Calcutta, being a European,

The new Professor of Chemistry in the Presidency College.

has been given a place in the Indian Educational Service, whilst the world-renowned Dr. P. C. Rai, who has far better qualifications than this new man, is still in the Provincial Service list. How long will such race distinction be made? Will it not be put down even during the rule of Lord Curzon?

**HITAVADI,**  
Jan. 18th, 1901.

25. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th January writes as follows:—

The Lord Bishop on Bible-reading in schools and colleges.

A portion of the revenue which is raised by the British Government from the Indian people is spent in maintaining Christian priests of whom the Lord Bishop of Calcutta is one. The present Lord Bishop of Calcutta, Dr. Welldon, is a learned and intelligent man and a school-fellow of Lord Curzon's. According to him the godless education which is imparted in Indian schools and colleges serves to make most Indian boys atheists in belief. He, therefore, wishes to introduce Bible-teaching into all schools and colleges, and has advised Government to that effect. The advice has alarmed us.

The Lord Bishop would have had no cause for fearing that Indian boys would grow up atheistical in belief, if he had known what a difference exists between them and English boys. Indian boys, whether Hindu or Musalman, get a religious training in the very manners and customs they have to follow, and religion is thus mixed up with their very blood and marrow. For them it is impossible to grow up godless or irreligious merely because they do not receive an hour or two's religious instruction at school. Government will do more harm than good and lay itself open to the charge of indirectly tampering with the people's religion if it follows Dr. Welldon's advice. We hope it will not come forward to tarnish its good name, and violate the excellent policy of religious neutrality laid down in the Queen's Proclamation by accepting the Lord Bishop's seemingly sweet and tempting advice.

**HITAVADI.**

26. The same paper sees no reason why the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal should in his resolution on the report of the Education Department for 1899-1900 express regret

The unpopularity of the Medical College.

at the apparent unpopularity of medical studies indicated by the fact of only one out of fifty-two students who obtained scholarships on the results of the last F. A. Examination having entered the Medical College. Should not the rigorous rules for native students framed by the Principal of the College and the treatment medical graduates who enter the service receive at the hands of the Government be thought enough to keep Indian students away from medical studies? Half-educated Eurasians, in no way superior to native students in social status, can enter the service only after three years' study and can in course of time easily obtain posts of Civil Surgeons. But native students must work hard at college for five years, and, however long their service, must never hope to become Civil Surgeons. This distinction is enough to keep promising native lads at a distance from the Medical College.

**MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,**  
Jan. 18th, 1901.

27. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 18th January has the following:—

The proposal for the abolition of the Collinga Branch of the Calcutta Madrassa.

We have learnt with alarm that the Government has decided to abolish the Collinga Branch of the Calcutta Madrassa. The fees in that school range from annas 4 to 8, and a large number of poor Musalman boys are educated there. We cannot understand why the Government is placing obstacles in the way of Musalman education. It may be argued that the Branch school was established for the education of poor Musalmans, and as a large number of rich Musalman boys



are now being educated there, the object of the institution is not being fulfilled, and its abolition will not affect poor Musalman boys, as they will be given half-freeships in the English Department of the Calcutta Madrassa. But such an arrangement will not work satisfactorily, as it will not be very easy for the Principal of the Madrassa, who is a European, to ascertain the real condition in life of the applicants for half-freeships. He will probably want recommendations from respectable Musalmans. But how will poor Musalman boys approach such men? If the Government's proposal is carried out, it should form a committee of respectable Musalmans from different parts of the city, acquainted with the condition of the Musalmans in general, in order to consider all applications for half-freeships. But before making any arrangements for the education of poor Musalman boys in the Calcutta Madrassa, Government should see if it cannot maintain the Branch School. If the school is going to be abolished from pecuniary considerations, money can be found for it by letting out the house which is now occupied by the Principal of the Madrassa. An income of Rs. 250 to Rs. 300 can be secured in this way, which may be spent for the maintenance of the Branch School. As no Principal of an educational institution is allowed free quarters, why should the Principal of the Madrassa alone enjoy the privilege? It is true that the number of boys in this school is at present very small. But its classes will again become full if it is removed to some more convenient place, that is to say, to the northern quarter of the city, where most poor Musalmans reside.

(e) *Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

28. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 15th January says that Mr. Morshead, Magistrate of Tippera, found on inspection that the Laksham Union Committee had kept no accounts of its last year's receipts and disbursements, and asked Rajkumar Navadwip Chandra Bahadur, Vice-Chairman of the District Board, to make an enquiry into the matter. Kali Prasanna Datta, a clerk of the Sadar Local Board, at this time, took a few days' leave and went to Calcutta, whence he informed another clerk of the Board that he had misappropriated Rs. 4,000 belonging to the Sadar Local Board and the Artisan School. Kali Prasanna has defalcated not only the Local Board's money, but also a large amount of contribution money paid by the villagers for the construction of roads, &c. Syed Husam Haidar Chaudhuri, Chairman of the Sadar Local Board, and the Vice-Chairman, Babu Sris Chandra Bannerji, were Kali Prasanna's class friends, and, therefore, very intimate with him. This induced them to put much confidence in Kali Prasanna. Cheques were drawn in the name of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, and they simply wrote "received contents through Kali Prasanna Datta," but never enquired what Kali Prasanna did with the money drawn from the treasury. By a little watchfulness they could have detected the defalcations earlier. Mr. Morshead has given orders for Kali Prasanna's prosecution. There was something like a club for a long time at Laksham, and some gentlemen used to dine there occasionally. Some of the Deputy Magistrates of the station ate these feasts, which were got up at Kali Prasanna's initiative. It is very strange that the Deputy Magistrates never enquired how Kali Prasanna procured money for such feasts and never advised him not to give such feasts. Deputy Magistrates, to be above suspicion, should never come to such feasts.

29. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 16th January complains that the water of the pond on the southern side of the police lines in Barisal town has become stagnant and foul owing to the action of the jail authorities cutting off its connection with the river by placing two bunds at points which introduced river water into it. A large number of people drink the water of this pond.

30. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th January complains that the lanterns on the lamp posts in the Bankura town are not cleansed, and no arrangements exist for the flushing of the roadside drains, which are full of filthy water from privies. Some of the bye-lanes are never swept or cleansed.

TRIPURA  
HITAISHI,  
Jan. 15th, 1901.

KASIPUR NIVASI,  
Jan. 16th 1901.

BANKURA  
DARPAN,  
Jan. 16th, 1901.



## (f)—Questions affecting the land.

MEDINI BANDHAY,  
Jan. 16th, 1901.

31. A correspondent of the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 16th January says that nearly all the pasture lands in Kespur and other villages in the Midnapore district within the zamindari of the Raja of Midnapore have been leased out, there being now only 20 bighas of pasture lands, where formerly there were 1,000 bighas. The raiyats are in great distress, as it is very difficult for them to feed their cattle at home. Cattle are becoming lean and emaciated every day.

## (g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

TRIPURA  
HITAISHI,  
Jan. 15th, 1901.

32. A correspondent of the *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 15th January says that the road from the bank of the Sasai river, *via* Birpara, to Satbarga, in the Tippera district, the repair of which has been taken in hand by the District Board, should be made a little higher and wider, as most parts of it remain under water during the rainy season, to the great inconvenience of wayfarers. The repairs which are made to the road should be inspected. The Board should warn the villagers against the practice of cutting the road in order to make passages for water into or from their fields and of grazing cattle on the road. The *bil* on the southern side of the village Birpara, which extends up to the corner of the Rai's house, should be made deeper and wider, as large boats cannot come to the village even during the rainy season.

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 18th, 1901.

33. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th January says that one Chhabil Chand, telegraph signaller, in the Mokameh station, on the East Indian Railway, applied for leave to have a last look at his mother, who was on her deathbed. But he was refused leave. A few days after he again applied for leave to perform the *sradh* ceremony of his deceased mother. This time, too, leave was refused him. Many employes in the Railway Department receive similar treatment at the hands of the authorities. The attention of Lord Curzon, who is known to be a friend of poor clerks, is drawn to Chabbil Chand's case.

HITAVADI.

34. A correspondent of the same paper says that the residents of Panjia, Huda, Magurkhali, Bagha, Krishnanagar, Dahar Buruli and Chuadanga, in the Jessore district, will be much benefited by the construction of a road from village Panjia to Buruli. Postal peons suffer much for want of a good road in going to deliver letters in these villages.

HITAVADI.

35. A correspondent of the same paper says that a portion of the road from the village Ramgopalpur to the Brahmaputra river in the Mymensingh district, was made *pukka* by the Government. But, as the District Board of Mymensingh had to spend a large sum in repairing the damages caused by the earthquake of 1897, the metalling of the remaining portion of this road was put off. But, as all the materials for repair are ready, it is hoped that the Board will resume the work without delay.

HITVADI.

36. One Babu Bama Charan Mukharji, writing in the same paper, complains that on the 3rd January last he went to the Rishra station, on the East Indian Railway, to catch the train for Serampore, and, as there was no time for purchasing a ticket, he asked the station master of Rishra to inform the guard of the fact of his travelling without a ticket. When he arrived at Serampore, the guard, however, instructed the ticket collector to realise from him the fare from Howrah to Serampore. The Traffic Superintendent was informed of this high-handedness, but has given no reply.

## (h).—General.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Jan. 16th, 1901.

37. The *Murshidabd Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 16th January makes the following remarks on Mr. Nolan's circular:—  
We thank Mr. Nolan heartily for his high-mindedness in issuing the circular. He has truly said:—"Men may dread,



but can never love or regard those who are continually humiliating by the parade of superiority." Mr. Nolan is an upright and experienced Civilian, and has given many proofs of his sense of justice and of his courtesy towards natives. It would be a very good thing if the officers to whom the circular is addressed followed his advice. But how far his advice will be followed is doubtful, for these are very bad times for the Indians.

38. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th January says that Babu Heramba Chandra Banerji has written a history of the Raj family of Andul, in the Howrah district, in which he says that Lord Clive, in order to reward Dewan Ram Charan Rai, the founder of the Andul Raj family, who helped him in establishing British rule in India after the battle of Plassey, gave his son Ram Lochan Rai command over 4,000 troops under the Nawab Nazim of Murshidabad. But those who some 150 years ago appointed a Bengali as Commander of 4,000 troops now consider the Bengalis unfit for military duty. Bengalis are not so much degenerated, mentally and physically, in the course of a century and-a-half as to be incapacitated for military duty. It is because the English rulers now regard the Bengalis with suspicion that the latter do not get military employment. What have the Bengalis done to deserve such treatment? Have they ever been guilty of any disloyal act?

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 17th, 1901.

39. A Brahmachari writes from Chittagong in the *Rangpur Dikprakash* [Rangpur] of the 17th January as follows:—  
The great shrine of Chandra Nath, situated in Sitakundu in the Chittagong district, has been in existence since the *Satya Yug*. The place received the right arm of the goddess Durga. The presiding Bhairab of the place is Chandra Nath and the presiding Devi, Bhawani. Here fire burns in water, and that is called the *Baraba Kunda*. The five *kros* of country included in the Chandra Nath Shrine is bounded on the north by the Labanaksha, on the south by the Barabakunda, on the east by the Mandakini Ganga, and on the west by the Vyasakunda. According to the Hindu Sastras, a man, who dies within these limits, attains *Nirvan*. The sacred books, *Barahi tantra*, *Yogini tantra*, *Bhairabi tantra*, *Vayu Puran*, first part, *Adi Brahma Puran* and *Siva Puran* supply information regarding this shrine. Never from time immemorial has any ruler meddled with this great shrine. But now the British Government contemplates making khas and bringing under the Forest Department this five *kros* (about ten miles) shrine, with the exception of only the temple and its surroundings. It is, however, the earnest prayer of the Hindu community that Government will not meddle with this great shrine. The snatching away of this holy place from the hands of the *mahanta* and the placing of it under the Government's own control will be an interference with the Hindu religion and will wound Hindu feeling. Its inclusion in the Forest Department will prevent *sadhus* and *sannyasis* from getting fire-wood, whenever they require it, for their *dhunis*, and will be the cause of the destruction of its holiness.

RANGPUR  
DIKPRAKASH,  
Jan. 17th, 1901.

The editor hopes that Government will not encroach upon a Hindu shrine.

40. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th January is glad to see that the Government of Bengal has at last determined to throw open six District Judgeships and four District Magistrateships to the members of the Provincial Civil Service. Government would not have so long suffered so much odium if it had acted according to the advice of the Public Service Commission earlier. On one point, however, the writer differs from the Government. The Lieutenant-Governor says that the posts of Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue and Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal will not be given to members of the Provincial Civil Service, unless specially qualified officers are found among them. One fails to see what this 'special qualification' means. Are the Deputy Magistrates who have grown grey in the service and earned praise everywhere in the discharge of their duties in any respect inferior in qualification or ability to boy Civilians not possessed of any experience of the country? Did the Deputy Magistrates who were occasionally appointed to the post of Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue prove themselves unfit for the post? It cannot also be believed that there are

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 18th, 1901.

Exclusion of Bengalis from military service under the English rule.

The proposal to include the Chandranath Shrine in the Forest Department.

Natives in the Board Secretaryship and Government Under-Secretaryship.



no experienced Deputy Magistrates fit to fill the post of an Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 18th, 1901.

41. The same paper makes the following complaints against Mr. Jolly, District Engineer of Monghyr:—

Mr. Jolly, District Engineer of Monghyr.

(1) In consequence of Mr. Jolly's persecution a large number of Overseers, Sub-Overseers and other officers connected with the District Engineer's office have been compelled or are about to resign or retire from the service. Babu Uma Prasad Rai, Accountant; Babu Durga Nath Sarkar, Accountant; Babu Mahes Lal, Sub-Overseer, Jamui; Babu Bhola Nath De; Babu Binod Bihari Sanyal, Sub-Overseer, Monghyr; Babus Asutosh Bhattacharyya and Kali Prasanna Sen, and Munshi Maniruddin are some among these officers.

(2) It is nine or ten months since Munshi Maniruddin's application for pension was submitted to the District Engineer, but it has not yet been forwarded to Government.

(3) Although it is the special duty of a District Engineer to do all original works personally, Mr. Jolly is said to get all such works done by Overseers and Sub-Overseers. According to a correspondent, the plans of both the road cess office and distillery buildings were prepared by the Overseer, Babu Madhav Chandra Chakravarti, and the plan of the bridge at Farkia was made by the Overseer, Babu Apurva Krishna Sen.

(4) According to the same correspondent, all drawings and estimates which are prepared by Mr. Jolly himself invariably contain errors.

The slab stone wall of the Sekhpura dispensary was, by Mr. Jolly's order, constructed with clay mortar, and the wall, as it was bound to do, gave way during the last rainy season, and is being replaced by a brickwall.

Many alterations have had to be made in the plan of the Beguserai dispensary building in the course of its construction, and this has caused much loss and trouble to the contractor.

(5) Mr. Jolly refuses to advance money to contractors while works are under construction.

(6) Mr. Jolly, while treating the contractors as a class very badly, shows exceptional favour to some among them. Though the Commissioner forbade any contracts to be given to Ram Sahai Mistri, Mr. Jolly does give contracts to Bedu Mistri, Ram Sahai's creature and servant.

Mr. Jolly is also very partial to the new Company of *thikadars* formed at Monghyr. The contract for the Monghyr drainage works has been given to this Company at rates higher than the ordinary rates. The concrete rate, for instance, allowed to the Company is Rs. 16 instead of Rs. 14, the usual rate. The labour rate allowed to the Company for the dispensary building is higher than the usual rate, Rs. 12 instead of Rs. 10.

(7) Mr. Jolly has thrown the duties of Overseers and Sub-Overseers into disorder by transferring the charge of some roads from the Local Boards to the District Board. He has ordered Overseers and Sub-Overseers not to keep the monthly statements of work. Many secrets in regard to his own diary will be divulged later on.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Jan. 18th, 1901.

42. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 18th January is glad to see Musalmans in the Public Works Department. Tafazzal Ahmad, a Musalman, pass the final examination of the Sibpur Engineering College, and requests the Government to give him an appointment in the Public Works Department. There is not a single Musalman officer in the Public Works Department, which is a monopoly of the Hindus.

NAVA YUG,  
Jan. 19th, 1901.

43. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 19th January says that 12 Civil Engineers being required for Bengal, Bombay and the Punjab, notifications have been published in the Home papers inviting applications for these posts. The pay attached to the posts varies from Rs. 300 to Rs. 400. As the requisite qualification for these posts is possessed by the passed graduates of the Sibpur, Madras and Poona Engineering Colleges, it is difficult to see why the Secretary of State for India is depriving the natives of their due by recruiting these officers in England.



44. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 21st January says:—

Sir John Woodburn and Mr. Oldham

Alas! how rare in India is the power to win the hearts of the people by sweet words and affable conduct and thereby to make them as submissive as the lamb. Mr. Oldham is an officer possessed of this power. He is a messenger of peace, a friend of the people, a helper of the sick and the refuge of those in danger. That is why the Lieutenant-Governor heard in Gaya the deafening and yet pleasing cry of *Oldham Sahabki Jay* drowning even the customary cry of *Chota Lat Sahabki Jay*. The Lieutenant-Governor was without doubt pleased with that cry, for that heaven-piercing cry was, in reality, a song in his own praise and in that of his admirable plague policy. The Indians are a grateful people. How deluded they are who seek to fetter by ties of brute force a people whose hearts can be conquered by kindness however small! Sir John Woodburn is a ruler who rules by the force of love. May his mild policy be followed in every province of India! If it is, the grievances of the Indians will be removed, and the foundations of British rule will become firm as adamant.

PRATIVASI,  
Jan. 21st, 1901.

45. The same paper writes as follows:—

The proposed appointment of Deputy Magistrates to higher posts.

The Bengal Government has announced its intention of appointing ten Deputy Magistrates to offices hitherto reserved for members of the Civil Service. The late Umes Chandra Batavyal and Nandakrishna Basu earned the praise of Government as well as of the public by their efficiency as District Magistrates. Babu Ambika Charan Sen is now discharging the duties of a District Judge in a very creditable manner, and no one can question the ability of Babu Suryyakumar Agasti and others. We are of opinion that there is no lack of able men among the Deputy Magistrates. If Government appoints able Deputy Magistrates to high posts, it is hoped that both itself and the people will equally benefit. Ability is developed by the inducement of rewards. Sir John Woodburn is impartial and an appreciator of merit, and there is no trace of antipathy to natives in his large heart. He has entitled himself to the thanks of the country and laid the Bengalis under an obligation by throwing open the higher posts to native officers and thereby affording them an opportunity of showing their ability.

PRATIVASI.

The Bengal Government, however, says that to the two Secretariat posts now thrown open to the Deputy Magistrates, viz., the post of Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue and the post of an Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, the main and essential condition laid down by the Government of India applies with special force, i.e., proved and absolute fitness.

But the question is whether Bengalis are really unable to perform properly the duties of the Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue or of an Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal. We do not think that they are unable to do so. We are worshippers of merit and no blind advocates of race-partiality. We know that the development of faculties is the one great foundation of national advancement. If Bengalis now obtain a few high posts through the favour of Government, they will be temporary gainers, but permanent losers. We are not prepared to sacrifice the national interest on the altar of race interest. We are not therefore prepared like the Anglo-Indian editors to sacrifice all hopes of future advancement on the altar of race-partiality. We shall not be sorry if incompetent Bengalis are trampled upon by an abler race. But the Bengalis should be given a trial before they are so trampled upon. If they prove unfit in the trial, let them serve as clerks, Deputy Magistrates and Munsifs for ever, and we will never make on behalf of the country any prayer to Government for their promotion.

But where is the proof that Bengalis are unfit for these two high posts. The Bengal Government never denied that the late Babu Nandakrishna Basu performed the duties of the Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue with great credit to himself. Nor is it possible that Government has promoted Babu Purnachandra Mitra to a District Magistrateship by way of reward for any inefficiency displayed by him while acting as Junior Secretary to the Board. Bengalis have never yet had an occasion to prove their efficiency in the capacity of an Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal. But they have given



proofs not only of ability but even of genius in offices much higher and more responsible than that of an Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal. Nilambar and Rishibar in Kashmir, Kanti Chandra and Sangsar Chandra in Jaipur, Kalikadas and Jadav Chandra in Kuch Bihar, a Bhattacharyya of Naihati in the snowy regions of the Himalayas, and Bholanath in the Keroli State in Rajputana have given proofs of extraordinary administrative ability. Many Junior Secretaries and Under-Secretaries may long sit as learners at the feet of these men.

But it may be asked whether Bengalis of this type are to be found in the ranks of Deputy Magistrates. We believe that there is no lack of genius in the Provincial Civil Service. If Nilambar and Kanti Chandra had been officers under the English Government, they would have had to pass all their life as Deputy Magistrates. Maulvi Abdul Jubber, who has become Prime Minister of Bhopal in his old age, wasted all his ability in the capacity of a Deputy Magistrate all the best part of his life. Could not he who has gained so much fame by his administration of Bhopal have acted as an Under-Secretary, that is to say, as a chief clerk?

### III.—LEGISLATION.

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 17th, 1901.

46. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th January says that, as the District Boards of the Patna Division will this year elect Candidates for election to the Imperial Legislative Council, a member of the Bengal Council, and as Sams-ul Ulama Imdad Imam is likely to be nominated by the Government to take the place of the Hon'ble Prince Mahammad Bukhtyar Shah whose term of office will shortly expire, and as the Maharaja of Gidhaur will also be nominated to another vacancy, it is clear that there will be the three Bihari members as well as the representatives of the Calcutta Trades Association and the Chamber of Commerce to support the candidature of the Maharaja of Darbhanga for a seat in the Imperial Legislative Council, and there is therefore little chance for Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee, the Maharaja's rival.

BANGAVASI,  
Jan. 19th, 1901.

47. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 19th January says that in England labour in mines has been regulated by legislative enactment to please the labourers, but in India this is going to be done with a view to please English mine-owners. The working of mines has become more costly under the law in England; the working of mines must therefore be made equally costly in India to please English owners of mines. In 1892 Lord Lansdowne and his Councillors objected to make such law. They said:—"If arrangements similar to those obtaining in England be made in Indian mines, the labourers will suffer loss and become dissatisfied." If the arrangements obtaining in England are introduced here, the male labourers will have to leave their wives and children above ground while at work under ground. They will not agree to such a separation, and yet the provisions of the English law must be enforced in India. The writer can not think of any other motive for such a course of action than a desire to please English mine-owners. The immense quantity of coal yielded by Indian mines has proved very galling to the owners of English coal-mines.

### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
Jan. 16th, 1901.

48. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 16th January draws attention to the miserable condition of the khas mahal raiyats in the Midnapore district. After the scarcity of the last few years and the unusually heavy rainfall during the past rainy season, the raiyats this year expected to reap only a four-anna crop, and the prospect of reaping some harvest, however poor, served to keep up their spirits. But even this poor expectation has been dashed to the ground by the recent showers and by the visit of flights of sea-birds which have eaten up all corn, damaging even the stalks.

According to a khas mahal correspondent, one Bhikan Mala of Rasiknagar in the Bajarpur pargana, where the distress is most keenly felt, died from the effects of starvation on the 25th December last. This man had some property,



but repeated failure of crops for some years reduced him to the plight in which he died. In Bajarpur pargana, water is still standing more than three feet high.

It is a pity that the Government tahsildars should choose such a time as this for realising all arrears of rent for the past year and the seven and-a-half anna instalment for the present year. On failure to pay the demand, the tahsildars threaten to realise the dues by the attachment and sale of moveable property. Nothing can be a matter of greater regret if such oppression is committed on the poor starving raiyats by the tahsildars under Babu Nanda Lal Bagchi, the Subdivisional Officer, who is an able and sympathetic officer.

The khas mahal raiyats have been badly off for the last ten or twelve years, and it is a wonder that their condition has not attracted the notice of the authorities. The Lieutenant-Governor re-assured them, on the occasion of his late visit to Midnapore, with hopeful words, but nothing has yet been done to give them relief.

49. A correspondent of the *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th January complains of the failure of crops in Gopalanagar and other villages, within the jurisdiction of the Vishnupur police-station, in the Bankura district. Most of the lands could not be cultivated in time for want of rain. The raiyats cannot expect to get more than three *salis* of paddy from a bigha of land, which formerly yielded four *maps*. Scarcity of food and fodder is already felt in these villages.

BANKURA  
DARPAN,  
Jan. 16th 1901.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

50. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 18th January writes as follows:—

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR  
Jan. 18th 1901.

Musalmans excited against Hindus. Dear Musalman brethen, how much longer will you remain in this sleep of ignorance? Do you ever reflect on the plight to which you are being reduced by this sleep of yours? Awake for once and open your eyes and see into what a deep well you are fallen. Do not your Hindu brethen regard you with displeasure? Alas! how long will you bear this disgrace and hear yourselves traduced and maligned in this way? Your eyes are nowadays slightly opened, and a few books are being published by you. It is a great pity that you should yet be unable to rescue yourself from this deep well of ignorance. What a nature this of yours? You are hearing so many abusive words uttered and bearing so many false accusations, and yet you look upon books written and journals conducted by your co-religionists with an eye of hatred, and are eagerly reading the libellous books and journals written and conducted by your Hindu brethren, which are, as it were, so many mines of slanderous terms and abusive epithets. You are turning up your noses and rolling your eyes to see your co-religionists slandered and vilified in this way, and yet you will not cease to read those books and journals and take to reading books and journals by your own co-religionists.

Take up the *Bamabodhini Patrika* for Bhadra and Aswin last and see how your religion and the entire Musalman community have been attacked in an article headed "The Arab widow" at page 157. Do you see? That is why we are pointing this out to you.

The writer of the article says: "For some days the Arab widow sits day and night by the grave of her dead husband and wets it with her tears." The writer evidently knows nothing about Arabia or he would not have made a statement of this kind. It is impossible that in that dreary waste of sand and stone, a widow who has just lost her husband should sit night and day by his grave, far from all human company. Everybody must see that this is a figment of the writer's brain. The writer does not also seem to be aware of the existence of the *parda* system among Musalmans. It is impossible that a *pardanishin* Musalman woman should remain night and day in a lonely place far from all her relatives. A Musalman widow is also forbidden to touch her dead husband till her *iddat* (a prescribed period) has expired. In fact, a Musalman widow must not stir out of her dead husband's house till that period has expired. Nor is a Musalman widow permitted to marry again whenever she pleases; she must allow an interval of four months and ten days (the



*iddat*) to elapse before she forms a second matrimonial connection. "When a second marriage is fixed upon," continues the writer, "she visits her husband's grave and prays by it." The writer will greatly oblige us by quoting his authority for this statement. The writer also says that on the eve of her taking a second husband, the Arab widow pours a skinful of water on her dead husband's grave to appease his possible anger at the contemplated match. A man once dead can know nothing of what is taking place in this mortal world. How can he then be pleased or displeased with anything that happens here? How again can one's anger be appeased by the pouring of a skinful of water on his grave?

Who, again, has heard of a grave being fanned? Where, again, in Islam, is it enjoined that a widow should not marry till the earth on her husband's grave is dry?

We are not aware of the writer's creed. But if he is a Hindu, what a glory has he earned by maligning a particular community in this way! Is it not the peculiar characteristic of the Hindu not to speak ill even of the meanest? Ill-feeling between Hindus and Musalmans is due to people of this type, and it is owing to this mutual ill-feeling that the Indian people are in such a miserable condition.

PRABHAT,  
Jan. 16th 1901.

51. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 16th January writes as follows:—

The Eurasian question.

A Eurasian never loses an opportunity of passing himself off as a European. To him the term "native" is a term of abuse, and he is on no account willing to be known as a native of India. This false pride is at the root of the poverty and degraded social condition of the Eurasians, and is the chief obstacle in the way of their advancement.

Whatever the Eurasians may say and think about themselves, they are and they shall remain what they were in the past. Every community in India knows them to be natives of India, and will never agree to call them by any other name. To our mind, Eurasians will never make any progress as a people so long as they remain unwilling to call themselves natives of India.

Eurasians, as a rule, do not receive high education, but they want to live in the expensive European style. The consequence is that most of them are in a very wretched condition. Want of sympathy between them and the natives also prevents them from engaging in trade. So their only means of earning a livelihood is service. Here, also, they lack three things. They have neither education nor patrons nor the money required to make security deposits. Thanks to the Government, however, many of them can secure appointments and manage to live from hand to mouth. But how long can Eurasians remain in this precarious condition? How long can they live on the favour of Government? It is their wretched condition which has moved Government to show them some favour, but in doing this Government has become guilty of injustice to other communities. By appointing Eurasians in Government offices, the officials offer an insult to the education, intelligence and social position of Hindus and Musalmans.

But we are not going to blame the Government for the favour it shows to the ill-educated Eurasian community. Eurasians are subjects of the Government, and, helpless as they are, Government must needs support them, so long as they do not learn how to support themselves. It is, however, time for the leaders of that community to bethink themselves of the means of earning an independent livelihood. Otherwise, the time cannot be far distant when it will find itself in a serious difficulty.

For sometime the Eurasians have been agitating to gain admission into the army. They have submitted a memorial on the subject to Lord Curzon. His Excellency will do a service to India and gain an undying name for himself if he can see his way to creating a Eurasian regiment. It will be doing good to India in many ways to admit Eurasians into the army. Their admission into the army will open out a career to them, will remove the disappointment which is now created in the minds of Hindus and Musalmans in consequence of their not getting appointments in the Government service, will relieve Government of a burden, and will give Government a regiment at a small cost.



52. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 19th January is glad to hear Sir John Woodburn's kindness. that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal had the kindness to call personally at the house of a Musalman *hakim* of Bankipore, who cured several plague cases of a dangerous type. The *hakim*, in token of respect, presented his royal guest with a cigar, which was accepted with thanks. This was a singular act of condescension on the part of an officer of Sir John Woodburn's position towards a poor subject.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Jan. 19th, 1901.

53. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd January says that Sir John Woodburn went to the Bengal Circus on the maidan in Calcutta, but does His Honour know who the women are who play in that place of amusement?

BANGABHUMI,  
Jan. 22nd, 1901.

Sir John Woodburn in the Bengal Circus. The officials do not visit native theatres, because the actresses who play there are public women. Lord Dufferin once intended to visit the Star Theatre, but had to give up his intention for this reason. If the officials have no objection to visit a circus in which public women are employed, what objection can they possibly have to visit native theatres? Sir John, before his appointment as Lieutenant-Governor, probably visited native theatres, and has, since ascending the *munud*, witnessed their performances in the houses of the native nobility. But objections arise when the question is one of paying visits to the theatres. The tone of the native theatres would improve, if the officials paid visits to them.

54. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] on the 23rd January has the following within black borders with reference to Her Majesty's death:—

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,  
Jan. 23rd, 1901.

Brother Bengalis, brother Indians, this is a day of great grief and deep sorrow for you. Your affectionate mother Victoria is no more; plunging her sons, daughters, grandsons, grand-daughters, relatives and friends, and the subjects of her world-wide empire in the deep sea of sorrow, she has made her great departure. Under the dispensation of that stern ruler, Time, we have to-day lost her under the happy shadow of whose peaceful sceptre we lived free from care and anxiety. We shall no more see that calm and serene face, no more hear those sweet words. We have to-day lost our mother and become orphans. Which way soever in this vast world we turn our eyes, we hear cries of deep sorrow and most heart-rending wails. The world has to-day gone into mourning (*asauch*) for that great goddess Victoria.

Weep, people of Bengal; weep, people of India; weep from the bottom of your hearts. Such a day of sorrow, such a day of mourning never came and will not come again. To-day, we are all motherless. Come, brothers, let us do the duty which sons should do, let us perform the duty we owe our mother Victoria after her death—let us go into mourning (*asauch*) like so many motherless sons.

Englishmen, you are our superiors in colour, in qualifications, in every respect; in fact, you are our rulers. Yet you have to-day suffered the same misfortune as we have. Like us, you, too, are motherless to-day. Come, brothers, let us in this universal mourning, act like dutiful sons by going into mourning (*asauch*) for a month for the death of our mother.

55. Referring to Her Majesty's death, the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 23rd January has the following in black:—  
The Queen's death. A dire calamity has occurred. The Queen of Great Britain—the Empress of India—Our Queen-mother Victoria, is no longer in the world of the living!!! A telegram received at Midnapore at 11 A.M. this day has brought us this heart-rending news.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Jan. 23rd, 1901.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

56. Referring to the proposal of Government to reduce the number of Proposed reduction of civil appeals preferred before the High Courts in India, the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 2nd January, and the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 12th January strongly support the opinion of the British Indian Association, Calcutta, and observe that the people have unbounded confidence on their High Courts, which are generally presided over by learned and experienced Judges, whereas justice is administered in the lower courts by a certain number of young and inexperienced officers

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Jan. 2nd, 1901.



over whom the High Courts are a salutary check. The writers hope that Government will weigh the arguments of the above Association before proceeding any further in the matter.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Jan. 2nd, 1901.

57. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 2nd January is of opinion that the existence of a large number of small tanks within the jurisdiction of the Balasore Municipality is a source of danger to the public health, inasmuch as many of them are used both for drinking and culinary purposes by the residents of that municipality. The writer is of opinion that a certain number of these tanks should be closed, while the water in the others should be used under certain specified sanitary rules.

URIYA AND  
NAVARAMVAD,  
Jan. 9th, 1901.

58. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 9th January is sorry to notice that the health of the Balasore district is not good, inasmuch as cholera and small-pox are raging in several parts of the district.

URIYA AND  
NAVARAMVAD.

59. The same paper, as also its contemporaries, the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 10th January and *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 12th January, state that there were a few showers of rain in the present month in all the districts of Orissa, where-by some crops have been benefited, while other crops have been more or less injured. The *Samvad vahika* regrets that the rains will prevent the mango trees from putting forth blossoms and, as a consequence, the mango crop will be short.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
Jan. 10th, 1901.

60. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 10th January regrets to learn that Government is contemplating to raise the fees in all zilla schools by 30 to 50 per cent., and observes that, in consideration of the poverty of the Indians, the education of their children, which is already too costly, should not be made still more expensive. The writer is of opinion that a policy, which wants to throw obstacles in the path of acquiring knowledge, is not only injudicious, but short-sighted, and hopes that the authorities will give up the idea at once.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

61. The same paper has reason to believe that the Raja of Nilgiri has ingratiated himself into the good graces of the residents of the Soro and Balasore thanas of the Balasore district by giving them permission to take fire-wood from a portion of his reserve jungle, of which they were in great need.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Jan. 12th, 1901.

62. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 12th January, is surprised to learn that the Director of Public Instruction in Bombay has issued an order prohibiting the educational officers of that province from taking any part in the proceedings of the municipalities in that Presidency, and has asked some who had applied for election by the rate-payers in certain municipalities to explain their conduct, as if such conduct was reprehensible. The writer hopes that the sympathetic Governor of Bombay will cancel the injudicious order of the Director.

UTKALDIPIKA.

63. The same paper draws the attention of the district authorities in Orissa to the circular issued by the Commissioner of that division regarding the use of correct and legible Uriya in the Revenue Courts of that division, as the writer has been informed that proper attention has not yet been paid to the provisions of the circular.

UTKALDIPIKA.

64. The same paper exhorts the public of Orissa to subscribe handsomely to the fund started at Oxford with the object of creating an endowment in connection with that institution to perpetuate the memory of the late Professor Max-Muller, who was connected with it for a large number of years.

UTKALDIPIKA.

65. The same paper recommends the proposals, which a zamindar of Orissa has made in the columns of the *Calcutta Statesman*, with the object of realising rents from those raiyats who are accustomed to run into arrears. The proposals consist of the cancellation of the raiyat's *patta* under section 78 of Act X of 1859, of the application of the *Patni* rules of sale to



occupancy holdings, and of summary ejection in the case of non-occupancy holdings. The execution of a decree on the oral application of the decree-holder, the service of summons through the registration branch of the post office, and a few other proposals of the same nature are also supported.

66. Referring to the proceedings of the Famine Commission, the same paper points out that they are all very good, but what is most required is the ascertainment of the causes of famine which has been found to occur frequently in India. The writer regrets that Government has not ordered a thorough enquiry into the causes of the oft-repeated famine, specially as Lord Curzon is at the head of the Supreme Government. The writer hopes that the causes of Indian famine will be found out soon and removed, as prevention is always better than cure.

67. Referring to the annual exhibition of flowers, fruits, agricultural products, &c., to be held at Cuttack on the 25th of the present month and the following days, the same paper points out that the Exhibition Committee should make it a point to encourage the *bona fide* cultivators, most of whom remain in the interior of the district, and this can be best done by granting them free accommodation in the town and by helping such of them with passage money as are too poor to afford the expenses of their journey to Cuttack. The writer observes that this can be best done by deducting certain charges under the head "*Nautches* and amusements."

68. A correspondent of the same paper, by name Sanatan Patnaik, who is a temporary resident of the Cuttack town, complains that a bearing cover despatched to his address from Angul on 31st December 1900 reached him in Cuttack on 4th January 1901, and that two stamped covers similarly addressed did not reach him at all. The correspondent was on that account extremely inconvenienced and mortified, as the letter conveyed the news of the death of a near relation of his, whose funeral rites he could not observe in Cuttack in due time. The correspondent prays that the postal authorities will take this matter into their special consideration, as all Hindus are very sensitive on the question of funeral ceremonies.

UTKALDIPIKA  
Jan. 12th 1901.

UTKALDIPIKA.

UTKALDIPIKA.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 26th January, 1901.



